

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended). Electromechanical filtering unit comprising a conduit, preferably cylindrical, capable of conducting electricity, at least one first electrode connectable to a high voltage power supply (EHT) and at least one second electrode having a plurality of discrete openings which is earthed wherein the electrodes are positioned within the conduit and connected to the conduit such that electricity can pass between the electrodes via the conduit and, preferably, wherein the second electrode occupies the internal cross sectional area of the conduit, and preferably, wherein the first electrode occupies the internal cross sectional area of the conduit.

2 (original). Electromechanical filtering unit according to claim 1 wherein the conduit is cylindrical.

3 (previously presented). Electromechanical filtering unit according to claim 1 wherein the electrodes occupies almost substantially all the internal cross sectional area of the conduit.

4 (previously presented). Electromechanical filtering unit according to claim 1 comprising at least two pair of 2 electrodes in series.

5 (currently amended). Filtering process using the electromechanical filtering

unit according to claim 1 for removing solid particles suspended in a liquid comprising;

a. passing a suspension through the conduit in a direction such that the first electrode is upstream of the second electrode with respect to the directional flow of the suspension,

b. generating an electric field within the conduit by connecting the first electrode to the high voltage supply,

such that the solid particles attach themselves to the second electrode and a liquid with a reduced solids content passes through the conduit.

6-9 (canceled).

10 (new). Electromechanical filtering unit according to claim 1 wherein the second electrode occupies the internal cross sectional area of the conduit.

11 (new). Electromechanical filtering unit according to claim 1 wherein the first electrode occupies the internal cross sectional area of the conduit.

12 (new). A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein the solid particles are catalyst particles and wherein the liquid is a hydrocarbon liquid.

13 (new). A filtering process according to claim 5, wherein the solid particles are Fischer-Tropsch catalyst particles and the liquid is a Fischer-Tropsch product stream.